

**MINNESOTA ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO
THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
MEETING MINUTES**

December 8, 2016

The Minnesota Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Committee) convened via conference call to discuss civil rights concerns in the State. Velma Korbelt chaired the meeting and performed the initial roll call of committee members present. The meeting was open to the public and took place from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM CDT.

State Advisory Committee Members:

Present:

1. Korbelt, Velma (Chair)
2. Doyle, Kenneth (Vice Chair)
3. Guadarrama, Leticia
4. Huynh, Denise
5. Kolbo, Kirk
6. Nelson, Teresa
7. Battle, Robert
8. Valens, Nyagatare
9. Dobratz, Matthew

Absent:

1. Levy-Pounds, Nekima
2. Taylor, Craig
3. Beaulieu, Jacqueline
4. Check, Ryan
5. Vischer, Robert

Commission Staff present:

- Wojnarowski, Melissa (DFO)
- Wilks, Olivia (USCCR intern)

Members of the Public present:

- None identified

Meeting Notes/Decisions Made:

Welcome and Roll Call

The Chair welcomed all members and took a roll call of members present.

Approval of Minutes

Committee member Bob Battle moved to approve the minutes from the Committee's meeting, October 31, 2016 as drafted.

Teresa Nelson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Project Preparation

- 1) U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Statutory Enforcement Report, 2017

- a. USCCR staff provided an overview of the Commission's plan for a 2017 Statutory Enforcement Report on civil rights and the administration of municipal court fines and fees.
 - b. Where the topic may overlap with the Committee's present study on policing practices in Minnesota, the Committee is invited to consider such concerns as they may contribute to the Commission's national study.
 - c. The Committee discussed current efforts in the 4th judicial district to require a court appearance for some crimes that people were previously afforded the option of simply paying a fine for.
- 2) Approval of Hearing Arrangements
- a. Bob Battle moved to approve the hearing arrangements as follows:
 - i. Date: March 21, 2017
 - ii. Location: Minneapolis/St. Paul Metro area
 - iii. Venue:
 - 1. First choice: University of St. Thomas
 - 2. Second choice: League of Cities
 - b. Kirk Kolbo seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.
- 3) Discussion of Panel Categories
- a. The Committee discussed proposed panel categories based upon the background and perspective of nominated panelists (attached).
 - b. In order to accommodate a second community panel, the Committee agreed to combine Law Enforcement and Judicial nominees into a single panel.
 - c. Teresa Nelson moved to approve five panel categories as follows:
 - i. Academic
 - ii. Community I
 - iii. Community II
 - iv. Law Enforcement/Judicial
 - v. Policy-Makers
 - d. Bob Battle seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.
- 4) Discussion of Panel Nominations
- a. The following individuals were added to the panel nomination list:
 - i. Gene Borgida, Law and Psychology Professor from the University of Minnesota (Academic, Ken Doyle Nomination)
 - ii. Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs (Community, Leticia Guadarrama Nomination)
 - iii. The Latino League (Community, Leticia Guadarrama Nomination)
 - iv. Reverend Alfred Babington Johnson, President & CEO of Stairstep Foundation (Community, Nyagatare Valens Nomination)

- v. Tyrone Terrell, former St. Paul Human Rights Director (Community, Bob Battle Nomination)
- vi. Cam Gordon (Policy Makers, Teresa Nelson Nomination)
- vii. Mark Hanneman (Law Enforcement, Matt Dobratz Nomination)
- b. Dr. Louis Porter was moved from the “academic” panel to the “community” panel.
- c. The Committee began discussion of nominated panelists for each panel (attached). The Committee aims to identify 3-5 panelists for each of the 5 approved panels.
- d. Kirk Kolbo moved to table further discussion of specific panel nominations until next meeting.
- e. Bob Battle seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Open Comment

At the conclusion of the meeting public lines were opened for comment from the public. No public comments were received.

Future Plans and Actions

- The Committee will meet next in January 2017, TBD. Committee members should be prepared to discuss and decide on panel nominations for each of the five identified panels.
- Committee members should start reaching out to their panel nominees to see if they are available and/or interested in participating in the hearing on March 21.

Next Meeting

TBD. USCCR staff will poll Committee members for availability.

Meeting Adjourned

2:00 PM CDT